

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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JOYCE A. SPRATT  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
CLERK / TREASURER  
HUGH C. VINSON  
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
PARKER J. DURHAM  
MICHAEL E. HENRY  
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES November 13, 2012

6:00 P.M. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Spratt. Following the pledge of allegiance Reverend Bovankovich gave the opening prayer.

Roll call was taken, in attendance were Councilmembers Adams, Cephas, Durham, Henry and Nordstrom, and also in attendance were Mayor Spratt, Attorney Vinson and Clerk Avery.

Approval of the minutes of the November 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Session was called for; Councilman Durham made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Councilman Henry. The minutes were approved 4 in favor with Councilman Nordstrom abstaining (he had not been present at that meeting), 4 to 0. Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2012 by Councilman Durham, following a second by Councilman Adams the minutes were approved by a vote of 4 in favor with Councilman Nordstrom abstaining (he had not been present at that meeting), 4 to 0. A motion was made to approve the Agenda by Councilman Durham and seconded by Councilman Nordstrom and passed all in favor with none opposed, 5 to 0.

Mayor Spratt reported that the meeting would be short as she and Clerk Avery had to be at a meeting in Cambridge regarding State Roads at 7:00 P.M. The Mayor also reported that planning for the Christmas Parade is progressing very well and the Veterans Day Celebration at the middle school was wonderful. The speaker did a great job and gave a 12 minute video. Meredith Bell's rendition of Amazing Grace was excellent. The Mayor reported that donations for Hurricane Sandy survivors have been pouring in. A tractor trailer is being loaded to go north, the next load after that will be going to Chrisfield, Maryland. Farmers banded together and donated 5 minutes of soya beans from their combines raising \$20,000 for the relief effort. Clerk Avery explained that a number of pickup trucks delivered a huge amount of donations to the Town Office late Friday afternoon. The Mayor stated that Unity Washington Church will be having free dinners for Thanksgiving.

Chief Les Hutton reported that the Town was minimally impacted by Hurricane Sandy, people stayed off the roads when they needed to, the only issue of any significance was the tree at the old Glen Oak Hotel. The results could have been much worse had the tree fallen all the way down. Halloween festivities went very well with no reported problems. The police gave out 200 glow sticks, that was very well received the only problem being that 200 was not nearly enough. The Chief reminded residents that with the cold weather approaching residents should look out for the elderly.

Under old business Clerk Avery read the Resolution for adopting a Bay Fee Hardship Application form for Town residents. Councilman Durham made a motion to approve the resolution, after a second by Councilman Adams the motion passed five in favor with none opposed, 5 to 0.

After Mayor Spratt explained a proposal for the regularly scheduled Town Meeting on the second Monday of the month be an open session in the public forum and the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month be a work session for the Council, this would give the Council the opportunity to work together to resolve issues and plan for improvements for the Town. Councilman Adams made a motion to structure meetings to that affect, after a second by Councilman Henry the motion was put to a vote and passed five in favor and none opposed, 5 to 0. Attorney Vinson said that the charter change regarding frequency of Town Meetings has gone into effect after passing the required waiting period.

Under new business Councilman Cephas made a motion to go forward with the preliminary planning for a solar facility at the WWTP. Councilman Adams seconded the motion and following no discussion was put to a vote. The motion passed five in favor with none opposed, 5 to 0.

After an explanation of North Dorchester Railroad's (NDRR) proposal that the Town apply to the State for ownership of the Hurlock to Preston line and then immediately deed it over to NDRR. Councilman Cephas made a motion for the Town to apply to the State for that property to be transferred to the Town; the motion was seconded by Councilman Henry and passed after no discussion with five in favor and none opposed, 5 to 0.

Following a brief explanation of the Corporate Certification Tax Councilman Cephas made a motion to cap the tax at \$175,000 for a period of five years. Councilman Adams seconded the motion and there being no discussion a roll call vote was called for; Adams – Aye, Cephas – Aye, Durham – Aye, Henry – Aye and Nordstrom – Aye. The motion passed five in favor with none opposed, 5 to 0.

Mayor Spratt stated the Council will meet next on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Councilman Cephas thanked God for Hurlock being so fortunate during Hurricane Sandy and prayed for all of the people in New York and New Jersey. He also thanked Chief Hutton, the

Public Works Department and the Mayor for all the preparations and the work that was done during and following the storm, especially for putting together all the donations for up north and Chrisfield.

Councilman Nordstrom thanked everybody for their thoughts and prayers during his recovery following by-pass surgery.

6:27 P.M. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted;

  
John Avery  
Clerk/Treasurer

*Approved in open session  
1/14/13  
4/0*

TOWN OF HURLOCK  
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-3

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING BAY RESTORATION  
FEE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP EXEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Environment Article, Section 9-1605.2, as amended by the General Assembly during the 2012 legislative session, The Town of Hurlock is required to establish a program to exempt from paying the bay restoration fee certain residential dwellings able to demonstrate substantial financial hardship as a result of the restoration fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council wishes to adopt a financial hardship exemption program for residential customers based on the guidelines provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Hurlock hereby adopts the financial hardship exemption program for residential customers attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**THIS RESOLUTION**, shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Nov, 2012

**ATTEST:**

Joyce A. Spratt  
Joyce A. Spratt, Mayor

John Avery  
John Avery, Clerk

**Hurlock Town Council:**

Christopher Adams  
Christopher Adams, Councilmember

Charles Cephas  
Charles Cephas, Councilmember

Parker Durham  
Parker Durham, Councilmember

Gary Henry  
Gary Henry, Councilmember

Michael Nordstrom  
Michael Nordstrom, Councilmember